

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method for operating a signaling system of a signaling point, the method comprising the steps of:

determining for a received signaling message on the basis of ~~[[a]]~~ an internal network identifier, the identity of ~~[[a]]~~ an internal network to which the signaling message belongs;

taking from a routing table belonging to the internal network ~~identity identifier~~, items of information for routing of the signaling message, wherein the signaling system accesses the routing table using the signaling point code of the signaling message;

determining on the basis of the type of routing information taken from the routing table, whether an item of routing information is present indicating a link or linkset ~~one of~~ for forwarding the signaling message, or ~~for denoting~~ indicating ~~[[a]]~~ an internal network identifier; and

supplying the signaling message ~~for the~~ with a new routing, if the item of routing information taken from the routing table is ~~[[a]]~~ an internal network identifier.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

defining the internal network identifier of a signaling message by the link or linkset via which the signaling message was received.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~signaling system~~ method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

indicating the internal network identifier of a signaling message in the signaling message itself.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~signaling system~~ method according to 13, further comprising the step of:

using the ~~[[cited]]~~ new routing to cause the system to switch signaling messages between two different ~~signaling systems~~ internal networks.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Signaling system~~ The method according claim 14, further comprising the step of:

using the ~~[[cited]]~~ new routing to cause the system to realize an internetworking with other networks.

16. (Currently amended) A method for routing a signaling message of a signaling point, comprising the steps of:

determining, for a ~~received~~ signaling message, the identity of ~~[[the]]~~ an internal network to which the signaling message belongs on the basis of ~~[[a]]~~ an internal network identifier;

taking from a routing table belonging to the internal network ~~identity~~ identifier, items of information for routing ~~[[of a]]~~ the signaling message, wherein the routing table is accessed using the signaling point code of the signaling message;

determining on the basis of the type of routing information taken from the routing table, whether an item of routing information is present that indicates a link or linkset useful ~~[[, one]]~~ ~~[[of,]]~~ for forwarding of the signaling message, or ~~for denoting~~ indicates ~~[[a]]~~ the internal network identifier; and

~~repeating application of applying a new routing to the signaling message to the routing~~, if the item of routing information taken from the routing table is ~~[[a]]~~ an internal network identifier.

17. (Currently amended) The method for routing according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

defining the internal network identifier of a signaling message by the link or linkset via which the signaling message was received.

18. (Currently amended) The method for routing according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

indicating the internal network identifier of a signaling message in the signaling message itself.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

using the ~~[[cited]]~~ new routing to switch signaling messages between two different ~~signaling systems~~ internal networks.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of:

using the new routing to enable the internal network to internetwork with other internal networks.

21. (New) A method for network tunneling internal to a signaling point, comprising:  
determining for a message signaling unit the identity of an internal network to which the message signaling unit belongs on the basis of an internal network identifier;

reading from a routing table associated with the internal network identifier items of information for routing the message signaling unit, wherein the routing table is accessed using the signaling point code of the message signaling unit; and

routing the message signaling unit to an internal network of the signaling point if the item of routing information taken from the routing table indicates an internal network identifier.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:  
defining the internal network identifier of a message signaling unit by the link or linkset via which the message signaling unit was received.

23. (New) The method for routing according to claim 22, further comprising:  
indicating the internal network identifier of a message signaling unit in the message signaling unit itself.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:  
using the new routing to switch message signaling units between two different internal networks.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:  
using the new routing to enable the internal network to internetwork with other internal networks.